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VEGETABLE SITUATION



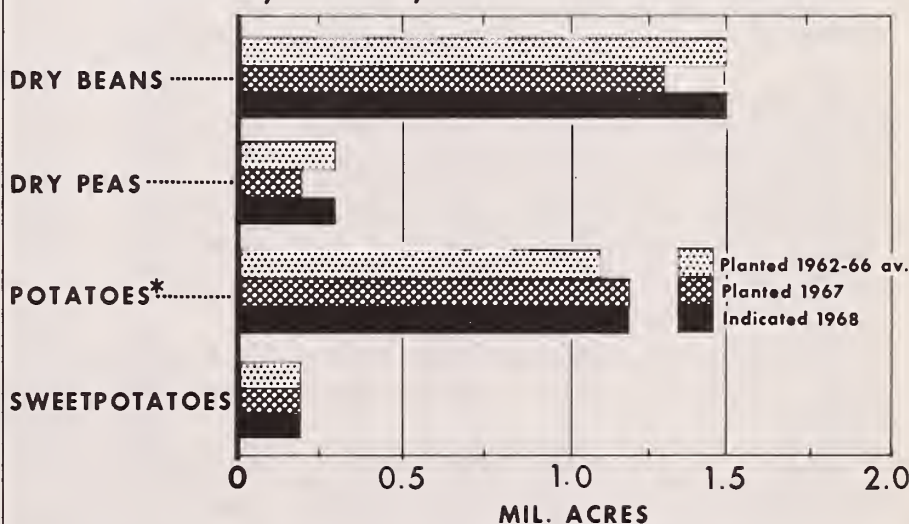
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APRIL 1968

Larger acreages are indicated this year for dry beans and peas. With average yields, bean production would be about a fifth above the short 1967 crop, but only a little above average. Dry pea output would be up substantially, and supplies next season likely would exceed prospective market needs.

Farmers planned no change in sweetpotato plantings, but intended to reduce late summer-fall potato acreage 5 percent from last year. With average yields, the sweetpotato crop would about match last year's. Potato supplies would be down moderately, probably about in line with market needs.

PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR BEANS, PEAS, AND POTATOES



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

* LATE SUMMER AND FALL CROPS.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Spring Supply and Market Prospects

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Table 1.--Vegetables and melons for fresh market: Reported commercial acreage and production of principal crops, selected seasons, average 1962-66, 1967 and indicated 1968 ^{1/}

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage					Production				
	1968					1969				
	Average	1967	Indi-	Percent	Percent	Average	1967	Indi-	Percent	Percent
	1962-66		cated	age of	age of	1962-66		cated	age of	age of
				average	1967				average	1967
	1,000	1,000	1,000			1,000	1,000	1,000		
	acres	acres	acres	Pct.	Pct.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	Pct.	Pct.
Winter ^{2/}	243.2	251.1	221.9	91	88	35,970	38,744	35,504	99	92
Spring:										
Asparagus ^{2/}										
spring	60.9	50.2	46.7	77	93	1,846	1,406	1,448	78	103
late	79.0	78.9	78.6	99	100	1,718	1,635	1,758	102	108
Beans, lima	1.2	.9	.9	75	100	34	27	n.a.	--	--
Beans, snap										
early and mid ^{3/}	22.4	21.5	23.0	103	107	753	745	418	56	56
Broccoli ^{2/4/}	12.5	15.6	17.3	138	111	1,014	1,326	1,470	145	111
Cabbage ^{2/}										
early	12.2	11.8	11.5	94	97	1,731	1,806	1,541	89	85
late	7.0	7.2	7.2	103	100	941	1,090	n.a.	--	--
Cantaloups	34.7	33.8	37.3	107	110	3,710	3,885	n.a.	--	--
Carrots ^{2/}	2.6	3.8	3.8	146	100	462	684	684	68	100
Cauliflower ^{2/4/}	7.8	8.4	8.6	110	102	704	756	774	110	102
Celery ^{2/}	7.4	8.2	7.8	105	95	3,418	3,507	3,462	101	99
Corn, sweet ^{4/}	42.5	39.1	35.6	84	91	3,159	3,414	2,824	89	83
Cucumbers ^{4/}	11.1	10.7	11.1	100	104	1,185	1,016	1,108	94	109
Eggplant	.9	.8	.7	78	88	144	144	112	78	78
Lettuce ^{4/}	39.3	41.2	44.3	113	108	7,440	7,788	8,496	114	109
Onions ^{2/}										
early	21.8	23.0	21.5	99	93	2,796	3,795	2,795	100	74
late	6.8	8.9	8.5	125	96	1,921	2,667	n.a.	--	--
Peas, green ^{4/}	2.0	1.2	1.5	75	125	91	48	52	57	108
Peppers, green ^{2/}	7.6	8.3	8.1	107	98	739	850	798	108	94
Shallots	.5	.4	.3	60	75	14	11	10	71	91
Spinach	4.3	3.8	4.0	93	105	258	230	256	99	111
Tomatoes ^{4/}	25.0	17.8	16.5	66	93	3,565	3,619	2,943	83	81
Watermelons										
late	64.3	60.7	62.4	97	103	10,452	9,061	n.a.	--	--
Summer: ^{5/}										
Cabbage ^{2/}										
early	6.0	6.3	5.9	98	94	1,257	1,355	n.a.	--	--
late	16.6	15.9	15.2	92	96	3,378	3,531	n.a.	--	--
Garlic ^{2/}	3.9	4.4	6.4	164	145	420	506	n.a.	--	--
Onions ^{2/}										
early	10.8	13.1	14.0	130	107	2,425	3,308	n.a.	--	--
late	57.1	58.5	61.4	108	105	18,919	18,617	n.a.	--	--
Watermelons										
early	191.4	188.7	193.4	101	102	15,114	15,712	n.a.	--	--
late	29.0	23.2	25.2	87	109	3,666	2,949	n.a.	--	--

^{1/} Excludes Alaska and Hawaii, which are not divided into seasonal groups.^{2/} Includes processing.^{3/} Production for early spring only.^{4/} Acreage and production for early spring only.^{5/} 1968 prospective acreage.

n.a.--not available.

Vegetables-Fresh Market, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

THE VEGETABLE SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 26, 1968

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SUMMARY *

Production of fresh vegetables this spring is expected to total moderately smaller than last spring, but slightly above the 1962-66 average. The decline from a year ago is due mainly to less early-spring cabbage, sweet corn, onions, and tomatoes. The spring celery and green pepper crops also are below last year, but still above average. Relatively large production is indicated for broccoli, asparagus, cauliflower, spinach, and lettuce.

Development of spring vegetables was delayed by adverse weather, resulting in small supplies and relatively high prices during April. Harvest activity is now increasing, and seasonally large supplies are in prospect for the next few months. However, with production of several leading items down, markets are expected to continue strong. Prices probably will average moderately above year earlier levels into late spring.

Remaining supplies of most processed vegetables are much larger than a year earlier. Wholesale prices are still relatively high, but well below the records of last fall. Intentions reports indicate processing vegetable acreage will be up moderately this year, mainly due to larger plantings of sweet corn, peas, and tomatoes. The prospective total acreage, with average yields and expected carryovers, would result in an aggregate canned vegetable supply for the 1968/69

marketing season substantially larger than this season. Frozen supplies would be up moderately.

Potato prices have increased in recent weeks, responding to rapid movement of storage stocks and prospects for reduced spring crop supplies. Although the early-spring crop may be much larger than last year, tonnage from this crop is relatively small. Acreage for the important late-spring crop is down sharply. With average yields, total spring output will be relatively small, resulting in a strong market.

Potato growers reported intentions to plant moderately less acreage for summer and fall harvest than in 1967. The intended acreage, with average yields, would result in a supply about in line with prospective market needs. Prices likely would be substantially above the depressed levels of a year earlier.

Sweetpotato producers in early March reported plans to plant the same acreage as in 1967. Average yields on the intended acreage would result in slightly smaller production. With such a crop, prices to growers likely would average close to the high levels received for 1967-crop sweetpotatoes.

Supplies of dry edible beans continue much smaller than a year earlier, and prices are averaging at near-record

*The summary of this report was released on April 26, 1968.

highs. The intentions report indicates growers plan 12 percent more acres of dry beans than in 1967, when weather restricted planting. Recent average yields on the intended acreage would result in production much larger than last year's short crop, and slightly above average.

Farmers intend to plant 4 percent more acres to dry peas this year. With average yields, output would be up substantially from 1967. Prospective total supplies probably would be large relative to expected market needs.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

Winter Supplies Small; Prices High

The acreage of fresh market vegetables was substantially reduced this winter. Growing conditions were favorable in the Southwest, but too much rain curtailed output in Texas, while cool, windy weather was detrimental in Florida. With smaller acreage and relatively low yields of many items, total 1968 winter production was down nearly a tenth. Markets generally were strong, and prices for fresh vegetables averaged record high.

Spring Supplies Moderately Smaller Than a Year Ago

Adverse weather earlier this year and recent drought in Florida has reduced prospects for vegetable supplies this spring. Total production of 18 vegetable crops, that typically furnish about three-fourths of spring supplies, is expected to be 5 percent smaller than last year. Acreage of many major vegetables is down from 1967, and yields may be lower. Large reductions appear likely for early-spring snap beans, cabbage, sweet corn, onions, and tomatoes. The indicated output of spring celery and peppers is down from the large volume of a year earlier, but supplies of both likely will be above the recent 5-year average. Western growers have increased their plantings of several important cool weather crops, and good yields are expected. Production of cauliflower is up slightly, and output of broccoli is up more than a tenth. Mainly

due to expanded acreage, spring lettuce supplies are expected to be record large. Relatively strong markets in the last few years contributed to a large increase in spring cantaloup acreage this year. Plantings of watermelons also are up from a year ago. Crops scheduled for harvest early in the spring were affected most by the bad weather, and marketings of nearly all leading fresh vegetables were relatively light during the first few weeks of April. Harvest tempo increased considerably in late April and is expected to show additional large gains in coming weeks. Prices for most vegetables have eased somewhat, and likely will decline further, reflecting seasonally increasing supplies. But with reduced seasonal output in prospect for a number of items, continued strong markets appear likely. Prices are expected to average moderately higher than a year earlier into late spring.

Growers have indicated plans for large increases in summer-crop acreages of onions and watermelons. However, the acreage of cabbage for summer harvest may be reduced.

Prospects for Major Fresh Vegetables

Tomatoes--Prices for fresh tomatoes have been relatively high so far this year, because of reduced output in Florida (where most of the domestic winter and spring tomatoes are produced). This winter, after several years of unfavorable markets, Florida growers substantially reduced acreage. Yields were low, output was the smallest in a number of years, and shipping point prices reached record highs.

Indicated total early-spring production, at 2.9 million hundredweight, is the smallest in more than a decade, and is down 19 percent from last year. California's expected tonnage is larger than last spring, due to more acres. Florida's acreage for early spring harvest is down about a tenth, and production is expected to be 22 percent smaller than last year. Spring output in south Texas also is expected to be much smaller this year than last.

With Florida's harvest delayed by weather, marketings during most of April were much below those of a year earlier, and prices were sharply higher. In mid-month, f.o.b. prices averaged 40 cents per lb. for large vine-ripened tomatoes, compared with 22 cents per lb. a year earlier. Harvests will be seasonally active in all early-spring crop states during the next 4 to 6 weeks, and total volume will be considerably above recent low levels. Because of the smaller crop, prices are expected to average at least moderately higher than a year earlier.

Carrots--Supplies of carrots have been relatively light so far this year, because of the small winter crop in south Texas. Heavy fall rains restricted planting in that State, and despite above-average yields, production was down 41 percent from 1967. California growers boosted their acreage and expect to harvest about a fifth more winter-crop carrots than last year. Nevertheless, total winter tonnage is down 18 percent from 1967.

With the Texas crop small and late, prices were record high into late winter. Although markets weakened appreciably as harvest peaked in April, prices have stayed moderately above those of a year earlier. No major price change appears likely in late spring when the desert valleys of California and Arizona furnish most of the May-June supply. Despite a larger crop, marketing data suggest California's remaining supplies probably are close to those of a year ago. Arizona's spring crop tonnage is expected to be the same as the large output in 1967.

Lettuce--Supplies of lettuce are expected to be much larger this spring than last. Prospective production in North Carolina and Arizona is smaller than in 1967, due to lower yields. But following a year of record high prices, growers in New Mexico increased acreage sharply, and expect to market over 60 percent more lettuce than last spring. California producers also have more acres for harvest in early spring, and their indicated tonnage is up nearly a tenth.

Total early-spring lettuce production is estimated at 8.5 million hundredweight, up 9 percent from last year to a new record.

Prices for lettuce were relatively high during the first few weeks of the spring-crop season, when Arizona accounted for the bulk of supplies. In April, however, with harvests at a peak in Arizona and gaining momentum in California, markets were under increasing pressure. By late April, f.o.b. prices in central Arizona were averaging less than \$1.50 per carton of 24 heads, compared with about \$3.50 a year earlier. With seasonally heavy volume available during May in both California and New Mexico, prices likely will remain sharply below those of a year earlier.

Cabbage--Supplies of cabbage are expected to be smaller this spring than last. Remaining winter-crop supplies appear to be close to those of a year ago, but prospective spring-crop output is down substantially. Early-spring cabbage acreage in the Southeastern States is a little larger than in 1967, but adverse weather has lowered yield prospects. Indicated tonnage in the region is 7 percent smaller than last year. Production in California, mostly for western markets, is off nearly a fourth. Acreage is down substantially, and yields may average low because of heavy winter rains. Total acreage for late spring harvest is about the same as in 1967. But with yields average--and well below last year's record--seasonal tonnage would be materially smaller.

Florida and Texas winter crops furnished most of the supply moving into eastern and midwestern markets during April. With larger supplies from Florida more than offsetting lighter Texas shipments, total volume was considerably above last April's and prices averaged sharply lower. However, spring crop states will be the dominant supply sources during May and June. Since crops in many early-spring areas have been delayed by weather, there may be a greater than usual overlap of harvests. Even so, with a sizeable decline in tonnage likely, prices are expected to average a little above last spring's moderate prices.

Onions--Unfavorable weather has sharply curtailed onion production in south Texas this year. The early-spring crop was damaged by excessive rains last fall, and suffered further losses from hail and low temperatures during March. With both acreage and prospective yields below last year, production is estimated at 2.8 million hundredweight. This is 26 percent less than in 1967, and one of the smallest crops in recent years. Although most of the expected decline is in the Rio Grande Valley, less tonnage also is likely in the Coastal Bend and Laredo areas. Indicated production in the Winter Garden area, mostly for May harvest, is up from a year ago.

The adverse weather also delayed growth, resulting in short supplies and especially strong early season markets. During the week ended April 20, f.o.b. prices at south Texas shipping points averaged \$4.72 per 50 lb. bag of medium-sized yellow onions, compared with about \$1.86 a year earlier. With harvest now general in most areas, prices are down from their earlier extremes, but still much above those of last spring. Markets are expected to continue strong until volume supplies become available in late May and June from later seasonal crops.

The total acreage of late-spring onions is down moderately from last year, mostly due to a sharp decline in north Texas. California growers expect to harvest only slightly less acreage than last year, while acreage in Arizona is the same as in 1967. Harvest in both California and Arizona, which account for nearly all of the late-spring tonnage, probably will become seasonably large during the last half of May. If yields are average, late-spring tonnage will be moderately larger than in 1967, and sharply above average.

Light supplies will move during June from early-summer crop areas, where growers have reported plans for moderately more acres this year. The prospective acreage of onions for late summer harvest also is up moderately, due to planned large increases in most western states. Growers in the East and Midwest indicated

their acreage would be about the same as last year. Average yields on the intended acreages would result in an early-summer output about the same as the record tonnage of 1967. Late-summer production would be much larger this year than last, and probably above market needs.

Celery--After a season of record output, depressed prices, and substantial crop abandonment, celery growers reduced acreage for harvest in the winter of 1968. With yields relatively low, production was down more than a tenth from the year before, and prices averaged sharply higher.

Acreages for spring harvest in Florida and California also are down from a year earlier, and spring celery supplies, at 3.5 million hundredweight, are slightly smaller than in 1967. Marketings in mid-April were running close to those of a year earlier, and f.o.b. prices averaged moderately higher. Harvests in both States will be seasonally active in coming weeks. With prospective supplies about the same as in the spring of 1967, relatively high average prices appear likely.

Sweet corn--Supplies of sweet corn this spring are expected to be substantially smaller than a year earlier. Florida's early-spring crop, which usually furnishes the bulk of U.S. supplies into mid-June, was damaged by cold weather. Although replanting was extensive, the State's acreage is down moderately from 1967, and prospective production is 16 percent smaller than last year. Adverse weather also damaged Texas' spring corn crop, where output may be down a third.

With production smaller and harvests late, shipments of sweet corn out of Florida in early April fell far short of last year's volume. However, harvest increased rapidly during the last half of the month, and prices moved down. Prices during the week ended April 20 averaged \$2.50 per crate of 5 dozen ears, compared with \$2.58 a year earlier. Although markets may weaken further in coming weeks as harvests in Florida and Texas reach a seasonal peak, with total

output smaller--prices likely will average above year earlier levels.

Cantaloups--The acreage of cantaloups for harvest this spring is up a tenth from last year. Large increases are reported for California and Texas, where relatively high prices during the last few years, new varieties, and adequate disease-free land have encouraged larger plantings. Florida's acreage also is up considerably. But Arizona growers recently have experienced numerous production and marketing problems; acreage there is down moderately. Early reports suggest production in Texas may be affected by bad weather during the winter, and recent heavy rains. However, above normal temperatures have favored western crops, and harvest will be in volume during the last half of May. As usual, prices will be strongly affected by timing of harvests. Market competition may be stronger this year than last, when too much rain delayed later seasonal crops and thus reduced overlapping of harvest.

Watermelons--Total spring watermelons acreage is moderately larger than last spring, because of a big increase in California. Tonnage in that State was small and prices were sharply above average last year; acreage is up 46 percent this year. With continued good weather, light shipments are expected in late May. Acreage in Florida, where the bulk of spring supplies are produced, is the same as last year. Low temperatures and strong winds during March caused much damage, and many acres were replanted. Early volume is expected to be relatively light, but considerable harvest overlap may occur during late May and June, depressing markets.

PROCESSED VEGETABLES

Supplies of most processed vegetables have been more abundant this season than last, and movement has been considerably larger. Shipments of canned vegetables during the winter were about a tenth above those of a year earlier; substantial increases were reported for snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, and kraut.

Apparent disappearance of frozen vegetables in total was up moderately from last winter. Disappearance of snap beans was up 12 percent to a new record; peas were up moderately; lima beans and sweet corn were both down about a tenth.

Despite the indicated large movement, remaining supplies of processed vegetables are relatively large. Total canned vegetable supplies appear to be much above those of last spring, with big increases for nearly all items. Stocks of both snap beans and sauerkraut are record large--up about 80 percent from last year. Supplies of sweet corn, pickles, lima beans, and green peas also are up sharply from a year ago, and well above the recent 5-year average. Stocks of all tomato products are above last spring's, with particularly large increases likely for catsup and juice. With the new packing season underway, supplies of spinach are moderately above the low level of a year earlier, and about average. There also are slightly more canned beets and many more canned carrots available this spring compared with last.

Total frozen vegetable supplies (excluding potatoes) on April 1 amounted to 1 billion pounds, compared with 872 million pounds a year earlier. Cold storage holdings of brussels sprouts and cauliflower were smaller than last year. Stocks of frozen carrots also were down from last year's record, reflecting curtailed output during the winter. Supplies of all other vegetables are larger than on April 1 last year, ranging from a tenth more asparagus to roughly a third more snap beans, peas, and spinach (table 2). Supplies of broccoli, sweet corn, snap beans, peas, mixed vegetables, and spinach were the largest ever for that time of year.

Markets Under Pressure From Large Supply

The market for processed vegetable has been more volatile than usual this season. Because of supply uncertainties, the first portion of the season was characterized by intensive buying at rapidly rising prices; demand for the institutional packs was especially strong.

Table 2.--Vegetables for commercial processing: Prospective plantings

Crop	Planted acreage			1968 as percentage of	
	Average	1967	Prospective 1968	Average	1967
	1962-66	1967	Prospective 1968	1962-66	1967
	1,000	1,000	1,000		
	acres	acres	acres	Percent	Percent
Beans, green lima:					
Freezing	60	65	66	110	100
Canning	29	40	39	138	99
Beans, snap:					
Freezing	54	72	65	120	91
Canning	173	224	228	131	102
Beets for canning	18	20	22	124	112
Cabbage for kraut, contract only	8	12	11	139	99
Corn, sweet:					
Freezing	99	128	144	146	112
Canning	330	381	403	122	106
Cucumbers for pickles	120	164	156	130	95
Peas, green:					
Freezing	161	169	190	118	112
Canning	289	315	312	108	99
Spinach, winter:					
Freezing	5	7	7	139	95
Canning	5	5	5	95	99
Tomatoes	285	333	366	128	110
Total 9 crops	1,636	1,935	2,014	123	104

In mid-season, however, the situation changed dramatically. With total supplies obviously abundant, prices began to slide. By early April, listed f.o.b. prices for most processed vegetables were down at least moderately from their early season highs, and trade reports suggest discounts from lists were common.

Continued downward pressure on prices of processed vegetables seems likely. However, sales volume has been large, and despite the recent drop, prices for the 1967/68 season will average high relative to those in prior years. So, even though carryover stocks will be up considerably, processors are planning relatively large packs this year.

Prospective Acreage Up Moderately From Last Year

March and April intentions reports for 9 vegetables, which account for approximately 90 percent of the annual processing tonnage, indicated total acreage of these

crops this year would be moderately larger than last year (table 2).

Canners planned a slight increase in snap bean acreage, and a moderate expansion in sweet corn. Tomato acreage may be up a tenth to a new record. Canning beet acreage also may be up substantially to the highest level in more than a decade. Intended plantings of lima beans may be about the same as in 1967, while reductions were reported in prospect for contract kraut cabbage, canning peas, and pickling cucumbers.

Freezers intended to cut bean acreage substantially this year. But acreage of limas may be about as large as last year, and substantial increases are in prospect for peas and sweet corn.

Winter spinach tonnage for processing was down 6 percent from last year, but sharply above average.

If the intended acreages are planted and average yields are obtained, total production of vegetables for processing this year would be up substantially from last year to a new record. The prospective canned pack would be about 4 to 5 percent larger than in 1967. More tomatoes and tomato products, lima beans, sweet corn, and beets would more than offset reduced packs of snap beans, spinach, pickles, kraut, and peas. With expected carryovers, aggregate supplies of canned vegetables in 1968/69 would be nearly a tenth larger than this season. Most major items would be in record large supply.

Processing tonnage for freezing may be moderately larger than last year, with much more corn and peas but fewer snap and lima beans. With expected carryovers, total frozen supplies next season would be the largest ever--5 to 6 percent above this season. All frozen vegetables would be in ample to heavy supply.

Prospects for Major Commodities

Lima beans--Due mainly to an increased pack, supplies of canned lima beans have been much larger this season than in 1966/67. Prices (f.o.b. factories) are down sharply from the high levels of a year ago, and a relatively large carryover appears likely. Yet canners intend to contract about as many acres as last year. Assuming recent average yields, production may be down moderately from 1967. However, because of the larger carryover, total canned supplies next season would be materially larger than the quantity available this season, and probably would be large relative to prospective market needs.

Supplies of frozen baby lima beans this season were close to the large supplies of a year earlier, and movement has been slower. Remaining stocks on April 1 were 54 million pounds, compared with 41 million last year. With a relatively large carryover likely, plantings of baby limas may be down 7 percent in 1968. Although about the same as the previous season, supplies of frozen

Fordhook limas were below average, and carryover will again be light. So intended acreage of Fordhooks, grown mostly in California, is up 13 percent. Normal abandonment and recent average yields would result in a total output for freezing slightly less than in 1967. Supplies of baby lima beans in 1968/69 are expected to be about the same as last season, while supplies of Fordhook limas may be substantially larger.

Snap beans--Because of a big 1967 pack, supplies of canned snap beans this season were record large--a fifth above those available in 1966/67. Although shipments have been running 8 to 10 percent above year-earlier rates, carryover stocks in mid-summer probably will be at least double those of last year. Nevertheless, with prices averaging relatively high, another large pack is in prospect. Intended U.S. acreage is 2 percent larger than last year, and with average yields, production would be up slightly. Tonnage would be up sharply in the West, where dry weather limited yields in 1967. Production in the East and Midwest may be moderately smaller than last year. However, with expected carryovers, canned supplies in all regions would be record large in 1968/69.

Despite heavy use, frozen snap bean supplies have stayed sharply above last season's levels. Cold storage holdings on April 1 were 112 million pounds, compared with 83 million a year earlier. With markets under some pressure and heavy carryover stocks certain, freezers are expected to curtail output this year. Intentions reports in early April indicated U.S. acreage would be 9 percent less than last year. With average yields, production would be down a tenth. Supplies in the 1968/69 marketing season would be moderately smaller than this season, but still large relative to market needs.

Sweet corn--With both carryin stocks and pack larger, total canned sweet corn supplies were up 8 percent this season compared with last. Although supplies appeared large relative to average annual disappearance, market demand has been strong. Movement is running close to that of a year earlier, and total

seasonal movement may be an all-time high. Although markets have weakened this spring, prices for the season likely will average the highest ever.

Canners have reported plans for moderately more acreage this year, with increases in all areas. Prospective plantings are up 2 percent in the East, 4 percent in the dominant Midwest, and 18 percent in the West. Average abandonment, yields, and packout per ton would result in a moderate increase in pack, compared to 1967. Since carryover also will be up, total supplies in 1968/69 would be a record--at least a tenth larger than this season.

Disappearance of frozen sweet corn has been exceptionally large during the last 2 seasons, and prices have averaged relatively high. As a result, freezers are planning a substantial increase in pack this year. Early April intention reports point to 12 percent more acres for freezing use than in 1967, with large increases in all regions. Normal abandonment and average yields on the intended acreage would result in a substantial increase in production. Total frozen sweet corn supplies next season may be about 5 percent larger than the record supplies available this season.

Green peas--Because of a much larger pack, supplies of canned peas this season were a tenth above those of last season, and the largest in nearly a decade. Markets have been under pressure, with f.o.b. prices in early April running moderately below year-earlier levels. Although canners' shipments will continue heavier this season than last, carryover stocks in early June are expected to be much above those of a year earlier. Canners' have reported plans for slightly less acreage than last year, with reductions in the Midwest and West more than offsetting a moderate expansion in the East. Average yields on the intended acreage would result in a 5 percent smaller tonnage than in 1967. But although pack may be down, total canned pea supplies in the 1968/69 season probably will be at least as large as this season, because of the larger carryover.

Supplies of frozen peas also are expected to be relatively large next season. Cold storage holdings are sharply above year-earlier levels, and freezers are planning a big pack. Intended U.S. acreage is up materially from last year, with prospective increases of 5 percent in the East, nearly a fifth in the Midwest, and 12 percent in the West. If the intended acreage is planted and yields are normal, production will be up 11 percent. With both carryin and pack up substantially, total frozen pea supplies in 1968/69 are expected to be record large.

Tomatoes--Packs of processed tomato products in 1967 totaled about the same as a year earlier in California, and were up considerably in the East and Midwest. Although carryover stocks were small, U.S. supplies were 7 percent larger this season than last. Among individual items, there were 13 percent more peeled tomatoes, and 9 percent more catsup; supplies of both were record large. Supplies of tomato paste and sauce also may have been the largest ever. Domestic output of these concentrates, packed mostly in California, probably was close to that of a year earlier, and imports so far have been much larger. U.S. imports of paste this season through February amounted to 138 million pounds compared with 50 million a year earlier. Total imports for the season likely will account for more than a third of the U.S. supply for institutional use. Tomato juice supplies were 4 percent larger than last season, but materially below average.

Trade reports indicate market demand for many tomato items has weakened considerably in recent months, with movement a little slower and prices down from the record highs of last fall. Nevertheless, for the 1967/68 season as a whole, disappearance is expected to be larger--and average prices may be the same as or higher than last season. As a result, a big increase in output is planned.

Prospective U.S. acreage of tomatoes for processing is a tenth larger than in 1967. With average yields, production would be up 13 percent to a new record.

All of the tonnage increase would be due to a much larger crop in California, where canners and growers report acreage likely will be up 18 percent. With growing conditions average (and much better than last year), the State's production may be up a fourth. Intentions reports indicate more acreage in a few leading eastern and midwestern states--Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. But with average yields in those states and prospective plantings the same as or smaller than last year in other States, processing tomato production in both regions may be down from a year ago. With both carryin stocks and total packs likely to be up materially, supplies of all tomato products are expected to be record large next season. Supplies of the concentrates probably will be up at least a fifth, while supplies of other items may be 10 to 15 percent larger than this season.

Sauerkraut--Supplies of kraut were relatively large this season, reflecting a sharp increase in pack. With supplies abundant and prices lower, movement has been considerably above that of a year earlier. Even so, remaining stocks are large. Packers holdings on April 1 amounted to a record 6 million cases, basis 24/303's, compared with a light 3.2 million a year ago. While carryover stocks in late summer probably will be the largest in years, early prospects point to another big pack in 1968.

Intentions reports in early April showed that kraut packers planned to contract only 1 percent less acreage than last year. If they hold to their intentions and yields are average, cabbage production under contract would be 7 percent smaller than in 1967 but 45 percent above the 1962-66 average. Information is not available regarding possible open-market purchases, which are influenced by fall-crop production, prevailing prices, and processing capacity. Because of abundant contracted supplies, open-market purchases were restricted last year.

Spinach--Frozen spinach supplies were record large last season. Although disappearance was up, carryover stocks on March 1, 1968 were a record 42 million

pounds, 22 percent larger than a year earlier. Stocks of canned spinach at the beginning of the current season also were large--up 8 percent from the low level of a year earlier.

Primarily due to less favorable weather, the 1968 winter crop for processing is expected to total 6 percent less than last winter's record tonnage. Output in Florida was down sharply, since warm weather reduced early yields. California's production, which typically furnishes more than half of the U.S. crop, is expected to be down 3 percent. Although acreage is unchanged, yields may not match those of a year ago. Despite the potential decline in output, processed spinach supplies into mid-1968 probably will be about the same as a year earlier, due to the larger carryovers.

Cucumbers for Pickles--Supplies of pickles have been record large this season, and carryover stocks are expected to be much larger than a year earlier. Therefore, processors have reported plans to curtail output this year; intended acreage is down 5 percent from 1967. In the northern region, acreage may be down substantially, with a sharp reduction in Michigan offsetting larger acreages in Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Planned acreage is below last year in all leading Southern States, and the region's plantings may be off 4 percent. Western States' acreage is expected to total a tenth above last year, with increases in prospect in most States.

With average yields, output on the intended acreage would be 2 percent smaller than last year's record. But due to the likely larger carryover, supplies next season may be slightly above the record supplies of this season.

Beets--With both carryover and the 1967 fall pack larger, supplies of canned beets available for marketing during the first half of the 1967/68 season were nearly a tenth above those of a year earlier. However, shipments have been heavier than a year ago, and the winter pack was small. Remaining supplies are below those of last spring,

and markets continue strong. As a result, processors plan to expand acreage 12 percent this year, with increases reported in most leading States. If the intended acreage is planted and yields are average, output would be a record--up 16 percent from last year. Total canned supplies in 1968/69 probably would be about a tenth larger than the supplies available this season.

POTATOES

Winter Supplies Large; Prices Low

Supplies of potatoes were very heavy during the winter of 1968. New crop output was more than a fifth smaller than in 1967 because of less acreage and lower yields in both Florida and California. But storage supplies were record large. Stocks on January 1 amounted to 141 million hundredweight, 11 percent larger than the previous record of a year earlier. The increase in holdings was the result of an increase in fall-crop production, together with a much smaller disappearance during the early part of the 1967/68 marketing season. Use of 1967 fall potatoes for food through December was down a little from a year earlier, partly because of more competition with late harvested summer crops. Movement to live-stock feed and starch also was below that of the previous year. But most of the decline in early season disappearance reflected less shrink and waste than in 1966 when storage losses were unusually heavy in Idaho.

Disappearance of stored potatoes rose to record levels during the winter. Although food use showed some gain, most of the increase was due to a larger movement to starch and feed. Under a USDA compensatory payment program, nearly 10 million hundredweight were diverted to secondary outlets during the January-March period. In addition, USDA purchased a small quantity of tablestock potatoes and a relatively large quantity of dehydrated potatoes, all for distribution to school lunch or welfare outlets. Despite the record movement, potato supplies exceeded needs through the winter, and markets remained seriously depressed.

U.S. prices to growers averaged \$1.56 per hundredweight during January-March, sharply below a year earlier and lowest for the period since 1962.

Spring Prospects

Supplies of potatoes this spring may total about the same as last spring's large supplies. However, the short-term pattern probably will be different. Supplies were much larger than a year earlier in the first weeks of spring. But they will become smaller than a year earlier as the season progresses.

Although storage holdings remained heavy into early spring, movement to feed and starch continued active through April. Diversions under the USDA program during the month amounted to nearly 4 million hundredweight. As a result, remaining supplies already may be smaller than the large stocks of a year ago. Supplies of frozen potatoes are a little smaller. Cold storage holdings of frozen french fries on April 1 amounted to 485 million pounds, 3 percent below a year earlier.

Prospective new crop supplies are moderately smaller than a year ago, with increased early-spring output offset by likely reductions in other seasonal crops. Winter-crop tonnage--largely marketed by the end of April--was 13 percent smaller than last year. Production of early-spring potatoes, at 5.2 million hundredweight, is up sharply from the low level of last year, and is 14 percent above average. Both acreage and expected yields in Florida are much larger than in 1967, when a drought and freeze curtailed output. Texas growers expect a reduced tonnage because of considerably less acreage.

Production estimates are not yet available for the important late-spring crop. But total acreage is down 19 percent from last year, with reductions indicated in all major states. Acreage in California, which usually accounts for two-thirds of late-spring tonnage, is down 23 percent. Growers in Arizona have 7 percent less, while those in Texas report

their acreage is down 21 percent. In the East, acreage is down 5 percent in North Carolina, and more than a fifth in Alabama. Crops in the West have made rapid progress this season, but low temperatures and heavy rains have been detrimental in Texas and most Eastern States. Assuming yields will match the average of recent years, late-spring production will be sharply below both last year and average.

With continued rapid disappearance of storage stocks and prospects for curtailed new-crop tonnage, potato markets strengthened in mid-April. Prices in the leading shipping points increased rapidly, and by late April, were running sharply above year earlier levels. The market is expected to continue strong in coming weeks as trade interest shifts to the new crop. Prices to growers this spring are expected to average relatively high--considerably above the moderate prices of last spring.

Summer-Fall Prospects

Potato growers in early February reported intentions to plant a slightly larger total acreage for early summer harvest than in 1967. Strong July markets in the East during the last few years probably were largely responsible for a prospective 6 percent acreage increase on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Growers in Alabama also planned a moderate expansion. But intended acreage was the same as last year in Delaware and Maryland, and down in other eastern areas. Farmers in California, Missouri, and Kansas also expected to plant fewer acres in 1968, continuing the long term decline in potato production in those areas. However, intended acreage in Texas, where most of the early summer midwestern market supply originates, was up 5 percent from last year.

March intentions reports indicated growers planned to plant 1.2 million acres for late summer and fall harvest, 5 percent less than in 1967. Smaller plantings are in prospect in nearly all major States (table 3).

Intended acreage in the East would be down 15,000 acres, a decline of 5 percent. While growers in all eastern states plan to plant fewer acres this year, the largest reductions are in Maine, 3 percent; New York, 5 percent; and Pennsylvania, 8 percent.

Farmers in Ohio, Illinois, and South Dakota may plant as many acres to potatoes this year as last, and growers in Indiana may plant more. But prospective acreage is smaller than in 1967 in other mid-western states, with decreases ranging from 1 percent in Minnesota to 3 percent in Wisconsin and 8 percent in North Dakota and Michigan.

In the principal western areas, Idaho growers reported they intend to plant 292,000 acres, down 5 percent from 1967. The sharp uptrend in Washington may be halted, at least temporarily, as producers there are planning a 3 percent reduction. A moderate decrease also appears likely in Colorado, while a substantial reduction is planned in Oregon.

Moderate Supply Indicated

If potato growers hold to their acreage intentions and average yields (allowing for trend) are attained, early summer tonnage would be about the same as in 1967. But late summer-fall output would be down approximately 7 percent, with moderate reductions in all regions. The projected late season production is slightly below average in the Midwest, average in the East, are relatively large in the West. Overall, prices likely would average considerably above the low levels of the current season.

SWEETPOTATOES

Supplies Relatively Light; Prices High

Sweetpotato production in 1967 amounted to 14 million hundredweight, a little larger than in 1966, but moderately smaller than the recent 5-year average. Total marketings this season through the

Table 3.--Potatoes, late summer and fall: Prospective plantings

Crop and area	Acreage planted			1968 as percentage of 1967
	1962-66 average	1967	Prospective 1968 <u>1/</u>	
	<u>1,000 acres</u>	<u>1,000 acres</u>	<u>1,000 acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Late summer and fall				
Maine	146.4	161.0	156.0	97
New York-Long Island	38.5	38.5	36.5	95
-Upstate	40.0	39.5	37.5	95
Pennsylvania	38.6	39.0	36.0	92
Other States <u>2/</u>	49.6	46.1	43.3	94
Eastern	313.1	324.1	309.3	95
Michigan	46.1	46.0	42.3	92
Wisconsin	57.2	58.0	56.0	97
Minnesota	112.4	111.4	109.8	99
North Dakota	114.8	121.0	111.0	92
Other States <u>3/</u>	47.2	46.7	46.0	99
Central	377.7	383.1	365.1	95
Idaho	269.2	307.0	292.0	95
Colorado	48.2	46.7	45.5	97
Washington	44.5	64.0	62.0	97
Oregon	37.2	50.0	44.0	88
California	34.6	42.6	40.5	95
Other States <u>4/</u>	24.2	23.1	24.5	106
Western	457.9	533.4	508.5	95
Total late summer and fall	1,148.7	1,240.6	1,182.9	95.3

1/ Intended acreage as of March 1.2/ New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina.3/ Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Illinois.4/ Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico.

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

fall and early winter appeared to be heavier than those of last season. Movement to fresh market was about the same as a year earlier, but processors probably used considerably more. By late winter, remaining supplies were below the small stocks of a year ago.

Markets for the small supply have been strong all season. U.S. prices to growers averaged 5 percent above year-earlier levels during the fall, and moved up sharply during the winter. The \$6.76 per hundredweight to growers in March 1968 was about a tenth above a year earlier and the highest in more than a decade. With only a limited quantity still available for late spring marketing, prices for sweetpotatoes are expected to continue relatively high.

Acreage Prospects

In early March, growers reported intentions to plant 150,700 acres in sweetpotatoes, the same as last year's record low, and 14 percent fewer than the 1962-66 average. A sizeable reduction from 1967 is in prospect in East Coast States where growers in New Jersey plan to have 15 percent less acreage, and those in Virginia and North Carolina intend to plant 5 percent less. Mississippi and Tennessee farmers reported their acreages would be substantially smaller this year than last, and a moderate cut of 7 percent is likely in Texas. These declines may be offset by small increases in Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, and California, and a relatively large expansion in Louisiana. Farmers in the latter state, where over 30 percent of the U.S. tonnage originates, plan to have 8 percent more acreage than in 1967.

Supply Prospects for 1968/69

Assuming normal abandonment and yields near the average of recent years, the intended acreage would result in 1968 production of sweetpotatoes being a shade smaller than last year. With a crop this size, prices during the 1968/69 season likely would average about the same or higher than the relatively high prices of this season.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Supplies Tight; Prices High

Because of a short crop in 1967, supplies of dry edible beans this season have been relatively light--much smaller than the near-record quantity available last season. With supplies the smallest in years, movement has been considerably below that of a year earlier. Domestic use appears to be down moderately, and foreign trade has been sharply curtailed. Dry bean exports from September 1 through February amounted to 1.2 million hundredweight, 53 percent less than the large volume that moved during the same period last season. Despite the decline in utilization, total remaining supplies of dry beans are sharply below year-earlier levels. Stocks of large lima beans are larger than a year ago, but are still relatively light. Stocks of all other major classes are smaller than in the spring of 1967.

With generally tight supplies in prospect, dry bean prices were relatively high as the 1967/68 marketing season got underway, and have moved up since then. The U.S. average price to growers was \$9.21 per hundredweight during March, about a third above a year earlier, and highest for the month in 20 years. Trade reports indicate markets are generally quiet this spring, with sales limited to small volume transactions at stable prices. Although still relatively high, f.o.b. prices for large lima beans are running well below the very high levels of last season. Sales of New York State's black beans in South American markets have been affected by increased competition from other suppliers, and prices for this class are substantially lower than a year ago. But prices for other classes are much above the depressed prices of last season.

Government Program Activity

With markets strong, price support activity for 1967-crop beans has been

limited. Last season, growers placed 3.5 million hundredweight of 1966-crop beans under support, and 1.9 million were eventually delivered to CCC. This season through March 31, only 664,518 hundredweight were under loan--less than a fifth of the volume covered a year earlier. Loan data by class are not currently available. However, over 60 percent of the quantity under loan was in Colorado, Nebraska, and Idaho, where pinto and great northern beans are leading classes. Program use in Michigan, where pea beans are dominant, has been the lightest in many years. Although loans in all States matured on April 30, producers could extend the loan maturity date to June 30. The tonnage ultimately delivered to CCC later this year is expected to be nominal.

In mid-April, under a Section 32 program the USDA purchased 20.2 million pounds of great northern beans for distribution to needy persons.

Larger Acreage Indicated

Growers have reported intentions to plant 1,451,000 acres of dry beans in 1968. This would be 12 percent more than last year, when planting was hampered by bad weather, but 2 percent less than the 1962-66 average. Prospective acreage is the same or larger than in 1967 in all states except Wyoming, where farmers plan a moderate cut-back.

New York's acreage, mostly in red kidney and black turtle soup beans, may be up 4 percent from 1967. Growers in Michigan, when nearly all of the pea beans are produced, reported plans for a 13 percent increase from last year's particularly low level.

Dry bean acreage may be the same as in 1967 in Utah, New Mexico, and Minnesota. But prospective acreages are up considerably in other pinto bean areas. Farmers in Colorado, the leading pinto producer, intend a 15 percent expansion, and large increases are indicated in both Kansas and North Dakota. Growers in Nebraska report their acreage, mostly in great northern and pintos, probably will be a tenth larger than last year.

Total plantings in the Northwest are expected to be up moderately. Farmers in Idaho, the area's leading producer, intend to plant 3 percent more acreage, while an increase of 12 percent is in prospect in Montana. Intended dry bean acreage in Washington is well above last year's low level, but still sharply below average.

California's total 1968 acreage of beans is expected to be much above the near-record low of last year. Farmers plan to plant 8 percent more acres in limas, and nearly a fifth more acres in other classes--mainly small white, black-eye, and red kidney beans.

Supply Prospects for 1968/69 Season

Since stocks currently are much below the large supplies of a year ago, movement during the balance of the season will continue below normal. The carryover into next season is expected to be very small.

If growers plant in line with their March 1 intentions and yields equal the average of recent years, production of dry beans in 1968 would amount to 18.9 million hundredweight. This would be more than a fifth larger than the short crop of 1967, but only 3 percent above the 1962-66 average output. Although carryover supplies will be down, total bean supplies in 1968/69 would be substantially larger than the tight supplies available this season, with big increases likely for both white and colored classes.

Prices for the projected 1968/69 supply likely would average considerably below the current season's high levels. However, the impact of the larger supply on prices may be eased somewhat by a strong market demand, reflecting inventory restocking in the United States and other countries.

DRY FIELD PEAS

Supplies Down from Last Season, But Market Weaker

Supplies of dry field peas available for marketing during the current season were substantially smaller than last season. The decline was the result of much smaller carryover stocks. Production in 1967, at 3.8 million hundredweight, was 1 percent larger than in 1966.

Total use of dry peas into late winter was down from a year earlier, with a reduction in export sales more than offsetting an increase in domestic disappearance. The gain in domestic utilization mainly reflects large USDA purchases and subsequent distribution to school lunch and welfare outlets. Through April, 10.6 million pounds of peas had been purchased by the Department.

Foreign demand for U.S. peas has been somewhat weaker this season than last. Exports to Asia and South America have been above a year earlier. But movement to Great Britain, normally the leading foreign buyer of U.S. peas, has been off sharply, and total exports are running about a tenth below those of a year earlier. As a result, markets have been under pressure. U.S. prices to growers average \$4.42 per hundredweight during January-March 1968, compared with a relatively high \$4.81 during the same period in 1967. Trade reports indicate remaining stocks are about the same as the relatively light supplies of a year ago. However, unless export demand

strengthens, prices during the rest of the 1967/68 season likely will continue below year-earlier levels.

Growers Plan More Acreage

In early March, growers reported intentions to plant 261,000 acres to dry peas this year, 4 percent more than in 1967. Most of the increase would be in the Northwest, where the bulk of the crop is grown. In Oregon, where dry pea production has been trending down, intended acreage is a tenth less than in 1967. But growers in Washington plan to increase 4 percent, while those in Idaho expect to plant 6 percent more. Acreage also may be larger in the Red River Valley, where Minnesota farmers plan a 1,000 acre increase.

If the intended acreage is planted and average yields are realized, production in 1968 would amount to 4.2 million hundredweight. This would be 13 percent larger than last year but slightly smaller than the 1962-66 average.

Supply Prospects for 1968/69

In addition to the prospective larger production in 1968, carryover stocks in mid-year likely will be a little above the low level of a year earlier. Thus, total supplies of peas for marketing during the 1968/69 season may be substantially larger than the moderate supplies available this season. Unless movement to foreign countries is close to the large volume of earlier years, prices for dry field peas may be under considerable pressure next season.

Table 4.--Vegetables, fresh: Representative prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No. 1 when available), indicated periods, 1967 and 1968

Market and commodity	State of origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1967		1968			
			Mar.	Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
<u>New York:</u>								
Beans, snap, green, Harvesters	:Florida	:Bu. hamper and crt.	: 5.50	5.00	8.00	8.25	10.50	4.75
Beets, bunched	:Texas	:1-3/4 bu. crt. 3 doz.	: 3.25	4.25	--	5.00	4.00	5.00
Broccoli, bunched	:California	:14's crt.	: 3.25	--	3.75	3.25	3.75	3.15
Cabbage, Domestic Round type	:Florida	:1-3/4 bu. crt.	: 2.65	3.25	3.12½	2.87½	2.87½	2.37½
Carrots:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Topped, washed	:California	:48-1 lb. film bag, crt.	: 4.15	4.65	12.00	8.20	5.50	3.90
Topped, washed	:Texas	:48-1 lb. film bag, mesh master	: 3.00	--	9.75	7.25	4.50	--
Cauliflower	:California	:Ctn. film wrpd., 12's	: 4.75	4.90	--	4.50	4.75	4.75
Celery:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Pascal	:California	:16-in. crt. 2-3 doz.	: 4.50	4.00	5.50	5.85	3.75	5.75
Pascal	:Florida	:16-in. crt. 2-4 doz.	: 3.35	3.35	4.50	4.85	3.40	3.90
Corn, green (yellow)	:Florida	:5 doz. crt.	: 4.75	4.00	4.00	5.50	5.00	3.85
Cucumbers	:Florida	:Bu. bskt.	:14.00	6.50	12.00	12.00	14.00	8.50
Lettuce, Iceberg	:California	:2 doz. crt.	: 3.35	6.75	6.75	2.50	3.75	3.75
Onions:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Yellow, medium	:New York	:50-lb. sack	: 3.20	3.00	2.80	3.00	4.65	5.25
Yellow, Granex, med.	:Texas	:50-lb. sack	: --	3.20	--	--	--	5.75
Peppers, green	:Florida	:Bu. bskt., lge.	: 4.75	--	5.00	5.00	5.50	--
Spinach, Savoy	:Texas	:Bu. bskt.	: 3.75	--	4.00	2.35	2.37½	--
<u>Chicago:</u>								
Beans, snap green, Harvesters	:Florida	:Bu. hamper and crt.	: 6.25	5.50	5.35	8.25	9.00	5.10
Beets, bunched	:Texas	:1 3/4 bu. crt., 24's	: 4.00	3.50	--	3.50	3.40	3.15
Broccoli	:California	:14's, ½ crate	: 3.15	4.25	4.15	3.35	3.35	3.10
Cabbage, Domestic Round type	:Texas	:1-3/4 bu. crt.	: 3.00	3.40	2.65	2.50	2.65	3.10
Carrots, Topped, washed	:Texas	:48-1 lb. film bag, mesh master	: 2.85	3.40	8.75	6.50	4.40	2.90
Cauliflower	:California	:Ctn. film wrpd. 12's	: 3.75	3.85	--	4.15	3.10	4.50
Celery:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Pascal	:California	:16-in. crt. 2-3 doz.	: 4.25	4.45	4.75	5.75	3.90	5.15
Pascal	:Florida	:16-in. crt. 2-4 doz.	: 3.25	3.50	4.70	5.00	3.25	4.60
Corn, green (yellow)	:Florida	:5 doz. crt.	: 4.90	4.50	4.50	5.75	5.10	4.00
Lettuce, Iceberg type	:Arizona	:2 doz. head ctn.	: 3.15	5.50	6.20	2.50	3.35	2.90
Onions:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Yellow, Granex, med.	:Texas	:50-lb. sack	: --	2.70	--	--	--	6.00
Yellow, medium	:Midwestern	:50-lb. sack	: 2.85	--	2.55	2.75	4.50	--
Peppers, green	:Florida	:Bu. bskt., large	: 5.25	10.50	4.75	5.50	6.00	12.25

Weekly summary of terminal market prices, Market News Reports, C&MS, USDA.

Table 5.--Vegetables, frozen: Cold storage holdings and indicated disappearance, January 1 to April 1

Commodity	April 1 stocks						January 1-April 1 net change					
	1962-66		1967		1968		1962-66		1967		1968	
	average				1/		average				1/	
	Mil.	lbs.	Mil.	lbs.	Mil.	lbs.	Mil.	lbs.	Mil.	lbs.	Mil.	lbs.
Asparagus	9		11		12		-8		-8		-7	
Beans, lima:												
Fordhook	38		30		32		-16		-13		-13	
Baby	46		41		54		-18		-26		-24	
Total	84		71		86		-34		-39		-37	
Beans, snap:												
Regular cut	56		55		84		-36		-39		-41	
French style	26		28		28		-17		-16		-22	
Total	82		83		112		-53		-55		-63	
Broccoli	46		53		67		-8		-5		+3	
Brussels sprouts	24		33		28		-8		-5		-8	
Carrots	38		55		49		-13		-19		-29	
Cauliflower	19		25		19		-8		-8		-9	
Corn, sweet	93		128		146		-52		-93		-86	
Peas and carrots	16		14		17		-1		-2		-1	
Peas, green	131		128		167		-89		-93		-101	
Spinach	41		52		68		-10		--		+6	
Mixed vegetables	28		34		37		+1		-3		+3	
Other vegetables	130		185		195		-26		-2		-35	
Total vegetables	741		872		1,003		-309		-332		-364	
Potatoes, French fried	337		503		485		+104		+93		+99	
Grand total	1,078		1,375		1,488		-205		-239		-265	

1/ Preliminary. n.a. - not available.

Cold Storage Report, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 6.--Vegetables, fresh: Average f.o.b. shipping point prices per hundredweight, United States, indicated periods, 1967 and 1968.

Commodity	Average first half of month					
	1967			1968		
	February	March		January	February	March
	Dol.	Dol.		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Asparagus	50.00	36.20		--	44.20	25.90
Beans, snap	10.30	11.50		13.00	16.60	17.30
Broccoli	13.70	11.90		12.60	10.50	9.97
Cabbage	3.30	3.00		3.65	3.70	3.84
Carrots	3.90	4.05		11.60	11.20	8.35
Cauliflower	11.20	10.80		13.60	13.30	12.00
Celery	3.85	3.75		5.90	5.50	4.03
Corn, sweet	7.70	8.30		6.70	9.70	9.60
Cucumbers	12.80	13.60		11.00	13.60	16.80
Lettuce	2.60	4.25		9.00	3.00	3.55
Onions	6.60	5.60		4.55	5.23	8.65
Peppers, green	11.90	12.20		10.00	9.90	17.30
Spinach	13.60	9.00		13.10	12.90	10.40
Tomatoes	11.00	9.70		14.60	15.50	13.10

Agricultural Prices, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 7.--Canned vegetables: Commercial packs 1966 and 1967 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks 1967 and 1968, by commodities, United States

Commodity	Pack		Stocks					
	1966	1967	Canners			Wholesale distributors ^{1/}		
			Date	1967	1968	Date	1967	1968
	1,000 cases 24/303's	1,000 cases 24/303's		1,000 cases 24/303's	1,000 cases 24/303's		1,000 cases 24/303's	1,000 cases 24/303's
<u>Major commodities</u>								
Beans, snap	40,536	53,173	Mar. 1	13,973	22,987	Jan. 1	3,831	4,023
Beets ^{3/}	10,180	11,206	Jan. 1	6,443	6,521	Jan. 1	1,194	1,236
Corn, sweet	45,525	49,268	Mar. 1	14,596	19,181	Jan. 1	4,893	4,980
Peas, green	31,856	37,692	Mar. 1	10,814	14,237	Jan. 1	3,671	3,579
Sauerkraut	2/9,696	2/14,272	Mar. 1	3,900	6,870	Jan. 1	901	801
Total	137,793	165,611		49,726	69,796		14,490	14,690
<u>Tomato items</u>								
Tomatoes	32,662	39,127	Jan. 1	17,321	20,626	Jan. 1	4,024	4,428
Tomato juice ^{4/}	38,907	42,815	Jan. 1	26,144	30,316	Jan. 1	2,497	2,519
Tomato catsup and chili sauce	37,448	39,427	Jan. 1	25,170	28,526	Jan. 1	2,713	2,532
Tomato pulp and puree	7,349	8,775	Jan. 1	5/3,211	5/3,690	Jan. 1	n.a.	n.a.
Total	116,366	130,144		71,846	83,158		9,234	9,479
<u>Other commodities</u>								
Asparagus	7,794	6,529	Mar. 1	1,598	1,441	Jan. 1	692	690
Beans, lima	3,531	3,963	Mar. 1	1,182	2,006	Jan. 1	647	590
Field peas	2,479	2,659						
Carrots ^{3/}	4,671	4,949	Jan. 1	2,558	4,071	Jan. 1	724	783
Okra ^{6/}	667	659						
Pickles	2/59,802	2/66,040						
Pimientos	675	761						
Pumpkin and squash	4,553	4,842						
Potatoes	5,285	n.a.						
Sweetpotatoes	10,024	n.a.						
Spinach	6,954	7,409	Mar. 1	2,271	2,449	Jan. 1	697	690
Other greens	2,930	3,591						
Vegetables, mixed	6,086	6,566						
Total comparable other items	100,142	107,968		7,609	9,967		2,760	2,753
Grand total comparable items	354,301	403,723		129,181	162,921		26,484	26,922

^{1/} Converted from actual cases to standard cases of 24 No. 303 cans.

^{2/} Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 112 and sauerkraut 54 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh).

^{3/} Pack to January 1.

^{4/} Includes combination vegetable juices containing at least 70 percent tomato juice.

^{5/} California only.

^{6/} Okra, okra and tomatoes, and okra, corn and tomatoes.

n.a. - not available.

Canners' stock and pack data from the National Canners Association, unless otherwise noted. Wholesale distributors' stock from United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 8.--Vegetables, commercial for fresh market: Index numbers (unadjusted) of prices received by farmers, as of 15th of the month, United States by months, averages 1935-39, 1947-49, 1950-54, 1955-59, and 1960 to date 1/ (1910-14=100)

Period	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
1935-39	114	121	133	130	125	98	87	82	81	90	103	115	107
1947-49	288	305	310	308	277	215	207	196	193	204	241	246	249
1950-54	283	264	253	293	265	242	232	202	183	202	248	268	245
1955-59	271	291	294	286	273	250	233	206	208	225	254	256	254
Year													
1960	314	301	277	280	281	236	245	201	196	215	232	242	252
1961	233	234	241	300	266	290	259	208	210	213	247	237	245
1962	305	327	398	345	343	269	235	205	207	214	239	272	288
1963	324	298	258	264	247	285	274	210	200	225	290	297	264
1964	318	327	312	282	264	289	258	247	248	256	332	285	285
1965	271	278	327	341	392	333	275	252	256	277	293	296	299
1966	346	364	329	350	316	321	368	330	303	304	348	349	336
1967	346	328	319	361	314	383	402	320	264	280	316	337	331
1968 2/	439	420	418										

1/ The index for commercial fresh market vegetables was revised, beginning January 1958, to reflect changes in the method of reporting prices. All prices now are reported on a f.o.b. basis.

2/ Preliminary.

Agricultural Prices, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 9.--Potatoes: Acreage and prospective plantings for 1968 season, with comparisons

Seasonal group	Acreage 1962-66 average	Yield per acre 1962-66 average	Acreage		1968 as percentage of 1967
			1967	1968	
	1,000 acres	Cwt.	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Acreage harvested:					
Winter	21.0	194	24.7	21.9	88.7
Early spring	30.2	150	28.0	33.9	121.1
Late spring	103.1	221	104.7	88.1	84.1
Total	154.3	--	157.4	143.9	91.4
Prospective plantings:					
Early summer <u>1/</u>	84.4	--	87.7	89.2	101.7
Late summer and fall <u>2/</u>	1,148.7	--	1,240.6	1,182.9	95.3
Total	1,233.1	--	1,328.3	1,272.1	95.8
Alaska, late summer and fall	--	--	.71	.72	101
Total	1,233.1	--	1,329.0	1,272.8	95.8

1/ Intended acreage for 1968 as of February 1. 2/ Intended acreage for 1968 as of March 1.

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 10.--Potatoes, winter and spring: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1962-66, 1967 and indicated 1968 1/

Seasonal group	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average 1962-66	1967	Indi- cated 1968	Average 1962-66	1967	Indi- cated 1968	Average 1962-66	1967	Indi- cated 1968
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Winter	21.0	24.7	21.9	194	198	172	4,092	4,894	3,771
Early spring	30.2	28.0	33.9	150	105	152	4,525	2,940	5,160
Late spring	101.6	103.4	84.2	224	230	--	22,769	23,734	--

1/ This acreage and production is later included in reports of total potatoes.

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 11.--Sweetpotatoes: Plantings, average 1962-66, annual 1967 and indicated 1968

Area	Acreage			1968 as percent- age of 1967		
	Average 1962-66	1967	Indicated 1968 1/	Percent	Percent	Percent
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres			
Central Atlantic 2/ Lower	29.8	22.9	21.3	93.0		
Atlantic 3/ Central	36.2	30.6	29.8	97.4		
California	97.5	88.7	90.8	102.4		
	8.8	8.5	8.8	103.5		
United States	174.9	150.7	150.7	100.0		

1/ Indicated as of March 1. 2/ New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia. 3/ North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. 4/ Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, and Kansas.

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

	<div style="text-align: center;">Week ended</div>						
	<div style="text-align: center;">1967</div>			<div style="text-align: center;">1968</div>			
Item	<div style="text-align: center;">Feb. 18</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Mar. 18</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Apr. 15</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Jan. 13</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Feb. 17</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Mar. 16</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Apr. 13</div>
	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>
F.o.b. shipping points:							
New stock							
Florida, Dade County							
U.S. No. 1, Size A, Round Reds <u>1/</u>	--	4.50	3.56	--	--	3.84	4.36
Old stock							
Colorado, San Luis Valley							
Red McClures <u>2/</u>	2.78	2.71	2.25	1.90	1.80	2.08	2.14
Idaho, Idaho Falls							
Russets <u>3/</u>	3.72	3.36	3.47	4.02	2.82	3.05	3.70
Maine, Aroostook County							
U.S. No. 1, Size A, Round Whites <u>1/4/</u>	2.02	1.68	1.26	1.44	1.18	1.08	1.06
New York, Upstate							
Katahdin <u>1/</u>	2.80	2.72	2.52	2.12	2.08	2.00	2.24
Michigan							
Round Whites <u>1/</u>	2.70	--	--	1.88	1.80	1.64	--
Tuesday nearest mid-month							
	<div style="text-align: center;">1967</div>			<div style="text-align: center;">1968</div>			
	<div style="text-align: center;">Feb. 14</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Mar. 14</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Apr. 18</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Jan. 16</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Feb. 13</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Mar. 19</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Apr. 16</div>
	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>
Terminal markets:							
New York:							
New stock							
Florida, Round Reds <u>1/5/</u>	--	6.75	5.70	--	--	5.60	7.20
Old stock							
Long Island, various Round Whites <u>1/5/</u>	3.30	2.90	2.00	2.65	2.35	1.90	1.70
Maine, Katahdin <u>1/4/5/</u>	3.40	3.40	2.55	2.85	2.40	2.40	2.60
Idaho, Russets <u>1/5/</u>	6.75	6.25	5.16	5.40	5.10	5.00	5.50
Chicago:							
New stock							
Florida, Round Reds <u>1/5/6/</u>	7.50	6.30	5.10	--	8.30	5.50	6.50
Old stock							
Idaho, Russets <u>5/6/</u>	5.50	4.75	4.50	4.65	4.40	4.25	5.00
Minnesota-North Dakota							
Round Reds <u>5/6/</u>	4.00	3.85	2.85	3.15	2.75	2.80	3.25
Month							
	<div style="text-align: center;">1967</div>			<div style="text-align: center;">1968</div>			
	<div style="text-align: center;">Feb.</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Mar.</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Apr.</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Jan.</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Feb.</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Mar.</div>	<div style="text-align: center;">Apr.</div>
	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>	<div style="text-align: center;"><u>Dol.</u></div>
U.S. price received by growers	2.33	2.07	1.75	1.63	1.59	1.46	1.77
U.S. average parity price	2.82	2.83	2.84	2.82	2.84	2.86	2.88

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Table 13.--Sweetpotatoes: F.o.b. prices at Louisiana and New Jersey points and terminal market prices at New York and Chicago for stocks of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No. 1, when available), indicated periods, 1967 and 1968

Location and variety	Unit	Week ended							
		1967				1968			
		Feb. 18	Mar. 18	Apr. 15	Jan. 13	Feb. 17	Mar. 16	Apr. 13	
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
<u>F.o.b. shipping points</u>									
S.W. Louisiana points									
Porto Rico, U.S.	: 50 pound								
No. 1, cured	: crate	4.60	4.94	4.92	4.75	5.00	5.60	6.00	
California, Porto Rico type	: 40 pound								
	: carton	4.15	4.15	4.75	5.45	5.45	5.85	5.85	
<u>Terminal markets</u>									
New York:									
New Jersey, orange	: Bushel								
Jersey type	: basket	4.12½	4.20	4.25	4.50	4.75	5.25	5.75	
North Carolina	: Bushel								
Porto Rico type	: basket	5.37½	5.40	5.50	5.35	5.35	5.90	6.75	
Chicago:									
Louisiana,	: 50 pound								
Porto Rico, cured	: crate	5.35	5.50	5.75	5.65	5.80	6.25	7.00	

F.o.b. prices are simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices. Market prices are for Tuesday of each week and are submitted by Market News representatives to the Fruit and Vegetable Division of C&MS.

Table 14.--Average price per hundredweight received by farmers for sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, and dry field peas, United States, indicated periods, 1967 and 1968

Commodity	1967			1968		
	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Jan. 15	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Field crops:						
Sweetpotatoes	5.69	6.09	6.21	6.43	6.76	
Beans, dry edible	7.41	6.84	9.46	10.00	9.21	
Peas, dry field	4.85	4.83	4.43	4.41	4.41	

Agricultural Prices, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 15.--Beans, dry edible: Prospective plantings for 1968 season, with comparisons 1/

Group of States	Acreage planted			
	1962-66 average	1967	Indicated 1968 <u>2/</u>	1968 as percentage of 1967
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
New York	99	92	96	104
Michigan	627	554	626	113
Nebraska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Washington	277	221	234	106
Minnesota and North Dakota	<u>3/</u>	28	32	114
Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah	239	213	245	115
California	214	189	218	115
United States	1,478	1,297	1,451	111.9

1/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. 2/ Indications as of March 1.3/ Not available.

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 16.--Peas, dry field: Prospective plantings for 1968 season, with comparisons 1/

State	Acreage planted			
	1962-66 average	1967	Indicated 1968 <u>2/</u>	1968 as percentage of 1967
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Minnesota	10	7	8	114
North Dakota	6	4	4	100
Idaho	112	108	114	106
Washington	151	121	126	104
Oregon	14	10	9	90
United States	298	250	261	104.4

1/ In principal commercial producing States. 2/ Indications as of March 1.

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

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